

English Translation of the Friday Sermon of 9th March 1990 Delivered by Hazrat Mirza Tahir Ahmad - Khalifatul Masih IV at Ciao -Portugal

AHMADIYYAT INTRODUCED IN PORTUGAL EVENTS HAPPENED BEYOND OUR CONTROL FAMILY OF MAULVI KARAM ILAHI ZAFAR IS WORKING LIKE A MISSIONARY

(Friday sermon delivered by Hazrat Khalifatul Masih IV on March 19, 1990, at Ciao, Portugal)

After reciting *Tashahud*, *Ta'auwuz*, and *Surah Fatiha*, Huzoor said:

This brief sermon which I am giving today is being delivered on the soil of Portugal. The reason for this sermon is that this is the first time that I got an opportunity to perform the opening ceremony of Ahmadiyya Mission in Portugal. Therefore, it was my earnest desire that during this trip a Friday Prayer should be offered in this country.

So far as this journey is concerned, since the time we entered this country from Spain and now when we are about to depart, we have witnessed a number of divine favors. Previously, Ahmadiyyat was not at all known in this country. Although Maulana Karam Ilahi Zafar had opened a mission here about two years ago and some pious souls got the opportunity to join the fold of Ahmadiyyat, yet to the general public, intellectuals and the State authorities, Ahmadiyyat was unknown.

God had already made astonishing arrangements for the introduction of the Jamaat before our arrival here. It seemed that the whole journey was being performed under the special favor and blessing of the Almighty. Now we realize that it was God's own plan.

One of our friends introduced me to a member of the Portuguese Parliament. He came at a dinner with us and became so familiar that he expressed his desire that he be given a chance to serve the Jamaat when I next visit their country. Therefore, on my instruction, when our missionary in Portugal contacted him, he helped him all around in a remarkable way. Everything was carried out due to his extraordinary love, devotion, and effort.

The Chairman of the Foreign Affairs House Committee arranged a luncheon and the

members of all the parties attended the function. This was a very big occasion and was attended by all the members of the Foreign Affairs Committee and I was given a chance to express my views. Some questions were also asked which were answered. Then the lunch was served which was attended by members of all parties, Vice President and the President of the Foreign Affairs Committee and some ex-ministers. After talking to them, I learned how thirsty is this soil for Islam and is ready to be impressed with Islamic teaching.

The lady who was sitting next to me told me that she served as a Professor in a University. As the President knew her and was highly impressed with her ability, she was given a chance to serve as a minister for a long time. Even now, she was holding an important post. While she was a child, she was admitted in a convent to get education and possibly to become a nun. As she was frank in making enquiries about Christianity, she was considered a favorite and an upright student. After completing that course, she joined the University and got higher education.

According to her, she was a Christian but a number of Christian dogmas did not satisfy her. Therefore, she is not convinced of them. When I told her about Islamic teachings and general Islamic trends, she was deeply impressed. She said that she was fortunate to learn about the true teachings of Islam for the first time. This is just one example but the same attitude was shown by everyone.

Another function was arranged in Porto, second most important city and a leading commercial town. There is a renowned club and its membership runs more than two thousand. The President of the club invited me first at the lunch and then to a dinner. This dinner was attended by the dignitaries of the town and the Deputy Governor. I was asked to speak on the subject of "*The Islamic View of Man's Fundamental Rights*."

Therefore, I spoke on various aspects of this subject. After the speech, whoever met me expressed his love and joy. Mr. Brito, a member of the Parliament expressed the desire to obtain the cassette of the address, as he wanted to distribute it among his friends.

Therefore, there were those events over which we had no control. It was only the divine grace and favor that God provided us opportunities to deliver the message of Islam to the upper class in this country. I also became the instrument for delivering true message of Islam in this country.

Among the local people who became the means of spreading Islam, the family of Maulvi Karam Ilahi Zafar was in the front line as usual as they had performed in Spain. His daughter Tahira has achieved historic blessing by working hard like her elder sister. It is not only a single missionary, but the whole family is working with missionary zeal.

Here I have seen great potential in the sincere people who have joined the fold of Ahmadiyyat. I guess if they are given proper training, there can be new avenues for Tabligh. I had discussions with them on this topic and expect from God that my guess will not be wrong that they are now ready for the spread of Islam and its propagation with fresh enthusiasm and ardor. I have seen this confidence and light in their eyes. I also hope that whenever God grants me a chance to visit this country next time, the number of these few souls will have crossed from hundreds into thousands.

One thing remains and it is that so far we have not been able to procure a piece of land for our mosque. The place bought for the mission is sufficient for the needs of our present small Jamaat. But as I have already expressed my expectations, this place will become too small. I pray that this place may become small very soon and God may grant us a bigger and better piece of land for our needs.

The reception which was given yesterday by the Jamaat in which diplomats of some countries participated, amongst them some were of bigger countries. During my discussion with them, new avenues were opened for delivering the message

of Islam to their countries. One ambassador went so far that after the function, he telephoned me and expressed his desire to see me again. Therefore, we had another meeting in his embassy. He promised, but cautiously, I guess that he desired the propagation of Ahmadiyyat in his country quite sincerely. He did not promise, because maybe his government declines to cooperate in the manner he wanted. But this was quite apparent from his talk that he was sincere in his promise. Another ambassador of this country had contacted me sometime before and expressed these kinds of thoughts. Therefore, I fervently hope that the efforts of these two ambassadors will bear fruit.

I also hope that if the Jamaat continues its supplications and begs divine assistance for one country, God opens doors in many other countries. Thus the roads which open for us in some fields show us several openings in many others. The only thing that worries me is whether we shall come up to the standard to meet the upcoming requirements and shall we be able to discharge our responsibilities.

Keep it in mind that this series of openings of new avenues for us is not due to our efforts but due to God's grace. Therefore, I hope He will help us in discharging our responsibilities also. He will give us courage and spirit. To the Jamaat He will grant stability. We hope, we shall go on stabilizing the new grounds we shall gain for Islam. May God grant us strength to do so.

There are a lot of glad tidings for the Jamaat all over the world which have been revealed and others are showing up. We are reaping sweet fruits of the Centennial year that there remained only frustration and humiliation for our adversaries.

I pray that God may make this rancor and heart burning of our enemies a source of many graces and showers of blessings on the Jamaat and with that, the pain is reduced to a mere pin prick. His graces may go on granting us blessings after blessings.